



United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Four Rivers Field Office
3948 Development Avenue
Boise, Idaho 83705-5339



USGS RRESEARCH AND ESR MONITORING ESCLOSURE
CX No: DOI-BLM-ID-B000-2015-0002-CX

Decision Record

Background: The Boise District Office (BDO) Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation (ESR) program proposes to construct a 3- to 5-acre enclosure for research and long-term monitoring purposes. The enclosure would encompass a USGS research macro plot, as well as provide a 1- to 2-acre long term ESR monitoring area; both of which are part of the 2012 Stout Fire rangeland seeding in the Lower Bennett Creek Allotment. The enclosure is necessary keep livestock from entering the study/monitoring area once grazing resumes in the pasture and for the duration of the study/monitoring.

The focus of the USGS study, designed in conjunction with the BDO ESR program, is to determine maturity of (native and introduced) bunchgrasses seeded following a wildfire. The macro plot will be sub-divided into numerous randomized micro plots and subjected to varying levels of simulated grazing (for up to five years). Study design and parameters are available in the project record. Long-term ESR monitoring would compare seeded grass canopy and basal cover, overall species diversity, and other metrics inside of and outside of the enclosure at intervals of approximately five years.

Decision and Rationale: I have decided to authorize the construction of a 3- to 5-acre enclosure. Fencing would be built to wildlife specifications. Enclosures are an effective method of eliminating livestock access. Vehicle trips and vegetation removal would be minimized.

My decision will allow for research on seeded bunchgrass maturity following wildfire rehabilitation treatments (e.g., drill seeding) as it relates to grazing resumption, as well as provide for long-term monitoring opportunities to compare ungrazed seeding treatments with seeding treatments that are grazed. While there could be minor impacts to vegetation during construction, vegetation protection measures and fence placement should minimize short and long term effects to native plants. Potential impacts to wildlife would be minimized by constructing fencing to wildlife specifications. The enclosure size, relative to the allotment it occurs in, would cause negligible reductions in available forage and would not affect livestock grazing preference (i.e., grazing management would continue per the current permit).

I have reviewed CX DOI-BLM-ID-B010-2015-0002 and found no extraordinary circumstances apply to this proposal and there are no significant impacts from this enclosure; therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

Compliance with Applicable Land Use Plans: This decision is in compliance with the 1987 Jarbidge Resource Management Plan. The plans provide for maintaining or improving vegetation conditions.

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Appeal

This decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, in accordance with 43 CFR, Part 4. Your appeal must be filed with the Bureau of Land Management at the following address within thirty (30) days from receipt of this decision: *Tate Fischer, Field Manager, Four Rivers Field Office, Boise District Office, 3948 S Development Ave, Boise, ID 83705.*

The appellant has the burden of showing that the decision appealed is in error.

If you wish to file a petition for a stay of the decision during the time that your appeal is being reviewed by the Board pursuant to 43 CFR 4.21 (as amended at 58 FR 4942, January 19, 1993) , a petition for stay must accompany your notice of appeal. Copies of the notice of appeal and petition for a stay must also be submitted to: *Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of Hearings and Appeals, 4015 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA, 22203.*

If you request a stay, you have the burden of proof to demonstrate that a stay should be granted. A petition for a stay is based on the following standards:

1. The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied.
2. The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits.
3. The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted.
4. Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

A copy of the appeal documents and petition for stay must be sent to the Office of the Solicitor at the same time the original documents are filed with the above office. The address is *Office of the Solicitor, Boise Field Solicitor's Office, University Plaza, 960 Broadway Ave., Suite 400, Boise, ID, 83706.*

The Office of Hearings and Appeals regulations do not provide for electronic filing of appeals; therefore, they will not be accepted.

If you have any questions regarding this decision or your appeal rights, please contact Matthew McCoy, Assistant Field Manager, at 208-384-3343, or e-mail him at matthewmccoy@blm.gov.

/s/ *Tate Fischer*

01/12/2015

Tate Fischer
Field Manager
Four Rivers Field Office

Date